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The Negro Farmer and Messenger

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and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

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Twelve Ways to Meet the New Economic Conditions In the South

By G. W. CARVER, M. S. Agr.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., EXPERIMENT STATION

At this most critical period in our history, we are highly fortunate to include in our first issue of the New Year, an article from the pen of Professor George W. Carver, Director of the Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and I am submitting this article from this distinguished scientist in the hope that you will read and re-read it until it becomes a part of you — until it is thoroughly woven into all of your business activities. I am sure that one word of mine cannot more greatly illumine the brilliant record already made by Professor Carver, but for the benefit of the many Negro boys and girls who have not been privileged to come in touch with this great character, I am submitting his likeness along with this article and with this statement—that from a position perhaps lower than any Negro boy of this land, he has risen to that point where he is recognized as one of the most thoroughly scientific agriculturists of the country.

This article is in bulletin form and may be had by addressing Professor George W. Carver, Director Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.—*Editor.*

It needs but little or no discussion to convince us that we are on the beginning of the most perplexing, most interesting and the most important period of our lives.

We are confronted with new economic conditions; the problems of last year are not the problems of this year; yea, the problems of yesterday are greatly overshadowed by the problems of today; and even the wisest heads are slow even to conjecture what will be the result, and where coming events will cast their shadows.

However, we are very conscious of the following questions, which stand up before us demanding an answer:

QUESTION—1

What shall I do with the boll weevil? In all probability it is here to stay.

Answer—Yes, the weevil is here, but our experiments prove that it may be controlled as follows:

(a) Prepare all land good and deep with a two-horse plow.

(b) Fertilize well.

(c) Plant an early variety of seed.

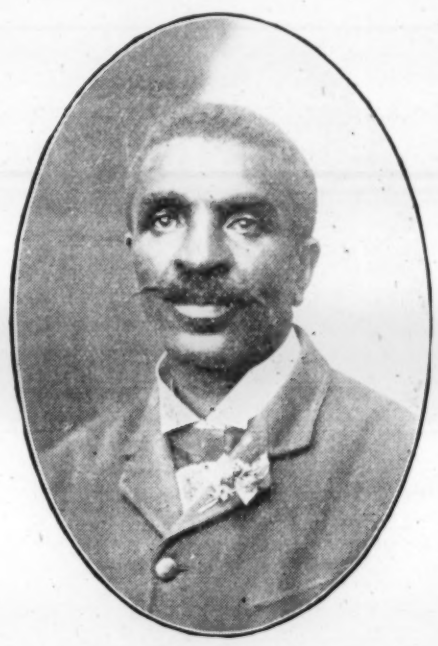
(d) Make rows a foot wider than is customary, and give the plants twice the distance in the drill.

(e) Stir the ground often to keep the cotton growing.

(f) Pick up squares and pick off weevils until the bottom and middle crops are made. Then stop picking off weevil. This will be about the middle of July or the first of August in this locality.

(g) Pick as fast as it opens.

(h) When through gathering the bottom and middle crops, destroy the stalks at once, and sow the field in a grain crop, such as oats, rye, wheat, barley, etc.; and if for hay only, mix one-fourth of hairy vetch seed to three-fourths of any one of the above grains.



PROF. GEO. W. CARVER

One of the foremost scientists of this country. Rising as he has from the humblest position in life to a foremost position among the world's greatest scientists, his life should be an inspiration to every Negro boy and girl.

(i) Clean off and burn all the rubbish from ditch banks, fence corners, and waste places, as the old weevils hide in these places and winter over.

(j) Encourage your neighbors to do the same. In this way the weevil will be reduced to starvation; so much so that the problem of control will be easy.

QUESTION—2

What shall we do for fertilizer? Potash is so high that it is out of the question, nitrate of soda but little better, and cotton seed selling for $64 per ton; so the meal will be both scarce and too costly to use as fertilizer.

Answer—There are many thousands of tons of the finest fertilizers going to waste all over the South, in the form of decaying leaves of the forest and the rich sediment of the swamp, known as muck. Every idle moment from now until planting time should be put in gathering up these fertilizers. Make the mixture (compost) as follows:

(a) Build pen to hold as much as you wish.

(b) Spread two wagon-loads of muck and leaves over the bottom of the pen; then one load of barnyard manure; build up in this way until the pen is full.

(c) Put a rough shed over it sufficient to turn the bulk of water from heavy rains, or mound up like a potato hill. This is to prevent the excess of water from washing out the fertilizing constituents.

(d) Put into this compost-heap all the wood ashes, old plaster, waste lime, rags, paper, or any matter that will decay quickly. Bones beaten up fine are also excellent. If you cannot get barnyard manure make the compost without it. You will be agreeably suprised at the increased yield of crops of all kinds.

(e) Break land deep (8 to 9 inches) and thorough; lay off rows with a middle-burster or a two-horse plow; put compost in drill at the rate of 20 tons to the acre on medium land, and 22 tons to the acre on very poor land; plant directly on the fertilizer; cultivate in the usual manner.

Results—The Experiment Station has had no commercial fertilizer put upon it for 12 years—nothing but the above compost and the proper rotation of crops. This year, 282 pounds of lint cotton, 45 bushels of corn, and 215 bushels of sweet potatoes were raised per acre.

QUESTION—3

Should the farmer keep a cow?

Answer—Yes, every farmer should keep one or two good cows; a good cow is half of any families living, as she will furnish all the butter, milk, cream, etc., that the ordinary family can use, and if properly cared for, a surplus can be had to sell. There are a number of foods that are more palatable, more healthy, and more economical when seasoned with milk and butter than when seasoned with lard or any other kind of shortening. Good bread, rich milk, and nice butter furnish almost a complete balanced ration.

QUESTION—4

Should a farmer raise chickens?

Answer—Yes, by all means every farmer should start with 12 good hens and one rooster. With a little care they will furnish all the eggs needed in the family, some meat, and a surplus at times to exchange for clothing and other necessities. A few guineas, ducks, turkeys, and a pair or two of geese will bring in much pleasure and profit at practically no cash outlay.

QUESTION—5

Should a farmer have a garden?

Answer—Yes, nothing will pay him better. It is one of the greatest moneymakers on the farm. It makes money in two principal ways.

(a) It furnishes a great variety of foodstuff, which is absolutely essential to good health and the proper strength of both mind and body. If we eat plenty of good, well-cooked vegetables every day, all other things being equal, we can do more work and better work than if we did not. We shall not get so tired, weary, and have to consult the doctor so often and pay out such heavy doctor bills.

(b) In the garden there should always be a surplus of something to sell, especially of beans, peas, melons, onions, white and sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, turnips, rutabagas, rape, pumpkins, beets, squash, etc., etc. The garden should furnish

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many things for canning, pickling, and preserving.

QUESTION—6

Should a farmer try to raise fruit?

Answer—Yes, fruit is an absolute necessity in the diet. No person can remain strong and vigorous in mind and body very long who neglects to make fruit of some kind a part of the daily diet. Every farmer should have a few peach, pear, plum, fig, and apple trees on his place; also grape vines, strawberries, etc. A few trees and bushes well cared for will furnish sufficient fruit for the needs of the family. Nut trees such as pecans, walnuts, chestnuts, hickory nuts, etc., are fine shade trees, and the nuts are becoming more and more a part of the diet, taking the place of meat.

QUESTION—7

Should a farmer raise hogs?

Answer—Yes, for the following reasons:

(a) No other animal converts into meat so much foodstuff that would otherwise go to waste.

(b) They will furnish us all our meat, lard, and the many other choice dainties that no other meat is so popular in supplying.

(c) There is a great demand for hogs at all times; the demand is always greater than the supply. They are sure mortgage lifters, and will pay any farmer out of debt if he will give them a chance.

(d) Hogs are easily raised; they will eat and thrive on weeds, nuts, and fruits of most any kind. These, however, are especially good: wild primrose, smooth and thorny careless weeds (pig weeds), purslane (pusley), wild plums, acorns, beechnuts, nutgrass, etc.

The following choice foods can be easily grown: Sweet potatoes, sorghum millet, corn, peanuts, velvet beans, rape, collards cabbage, turnips, beets, pumpkins, cow peas, soja beans, Bermuda grass; also wheat, rye, oats, burr and crimson clover for winter pasture.

QUESTION—8

Should a farmer try to raise stock?

Answer—Yes, every bit that he possibly can. In addition to those mentioned he should have mares that would bring colts every year. With proper care they will do all the farm work and raise the colts too. A few sheep, goats, or an extra cow or two will turn a great deal of roughage into meat, and at the same time make much valuable fertilizer for the land.

QUESTION—9

Since the coming of the boll weevil, what is the farmer going to do for a money crop?

Answer—There are several crops, if wisely handled, from which the farmers can realize more money than from cotton; viz., corn, velvet beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, and cow peas. If a paying market cannot be had for the raw products, they should be fed to stock, and turned into milk, meat, butter, eggs, lard, etc. There are but few, if any, better stock-raising countries than ours. If the manure from these animals is carefully saved and returned to the land, practically all our fertilizer questions will be settled and our land will respond almost or quite equal to virgin soil.

QUESTION—10

Should a renter or share-cropper attempt to carry out the above suggestions?

Answer—Yes, just as far as possible; he should set out trees, clean off ditch banks, make such repairs as he can, and in every way strive to leave the place in better condition than when he took possession. It will mean money in your pockets, aside from the great value of forming correct habits of living.

QUESTION—11

Will it pay a farmer to take an agricultural paper?

Answer—Yes, it is a necessity. He should not only take one or two good agricultural papers, but others as well. He must study markets, crops, weather, supply and demand, and a host of other things which affect him and his business. It is just as important to the farmer as to the merchant. In fact, it is the only way that either can keep abreast of the times.

QUESTION—12

Should the farmer attempt to have a pretty door-yard with flowers?

Answer—Yes, by all means, for the reasons which follow:

(a) They are another form of God's silent messengers, and the "sweetest things He ever made and forgot to put a soul into."

(b) They are soothing and restful to the tired body and brain.

(c) We often send for the doctor, and take a lot of strong, disagreeable medicine when all we need is a bunch of beautiful flowers from loving hands.

(d) A love of flowers denotes refinement and culture.

(e) Pretty dooryards and charming surroundings increase the value of property, and encourage the very best class of people to become our neighbors.

SUGGESTIVE CROP ROTATION FOR A ONE-HORSE FARMER

BY J. F. DUGGER,
Director of Extension Service

Prepared by Extension Service, Auburn, Ala.

No single plan set down on paper can be the best for all farmers even in a single community. However, I venture to make the following suggestive outline for an intelligent one-horse farmer in the sandy regions of Central Alabama, having thirty acres of open land, besides permanent pasture. I do this with the expectation that only a few farmers may be able to use this plan exactly in its present shape, but that others may find it a helpful and suggestive basis from which to consider other plans somewhat along the same lines, but differing in relative acreage and in some other particulars.

(a). Fall sown crops,

Acres.
- 5 in oats.
- 3 in wheat.
- 1 in rye.
- ½ in Dwarf Essex rape. (Fenced).
- ½ in bur or other clover, or vetch. (Fenced).

Total, 10

As much as possible of this grain land is to be used also for a summer crop of either peanuts, soybeans or cowpeas.

(b). Summer crops for spring planting.

Acres.
- 10 (or more) in corn with early speckled velvet beans between.
- 5 in cotton.
- 3 in sweet potatoes.
- 1 in sugar cane or large variety of sorghum.
- 1 in garden and miscellaneous truck crops.

Total, 20

You will note that the above plan provides the following sales crops: Most of the wheat on three acres; part of the oats, if a thrasher be available; all of the cotton and cotton seed (the place of the cotton seed in winter feeding of cattle to be taken by the unhulled and unground velvet beans, both in field and gathered); a little of the corn unless the supply of hogs be sufficient to consume the surplus; part of the sweet potatoes; most of the syrup and a part of the miscellaneous truck crops. To this list, if the supply of hogs be insufficient to consume such food, should be added as a sale crop, most of the peanuts following summer grain; some cowpeas, and a few soybeans; the latter to be sold chiefly to neighbors for planting.

This whole list of crops has been so proportioned as to make it possible for hogs to be largely substituted for the ordinary acreage of cotton. You will note the large proportion of crops which can be more advantageously marketed through hogs than any other way, such as peanuts, soybeans, cowpeas, velvet beans, Dwarf Essex rape, bur clover, part of the sweet potatoes, and such other winter grazing as may be afforded rather early in the winter by wheat, oats and rye, or even by using rye and oats, not only for winter grazing, but also to be hogged-off at the time of maturing. At the same time, this scheme of cropping is considered with a view to meeting the requirements of those farmers who have not many hogs and who must be able to sell direct for cash a considerable proportion of the crops grown by them.

The fact that syrup blending plants offer, I believe, the same price, now about 30c per gallon, for sorghum as for cane syrup, makes it possible for the farmers thus convenient to blending plants to grow one acre of a crop for syrup making without much outlay for seed, which would be the case if they had to devote an entire acre to sugar cane. Of course, I realize that for most local or retail markets, sugar cane syrup is by far the best seller, and and that the retail price for a good grade of syrup should be considerably greater than the wholesale price mentioned above.

Those who desire to eliminate cotton completely to increase correspondingly the number of hogs, may well devote the five acres proportioned for cotton, to an additional area in corn.

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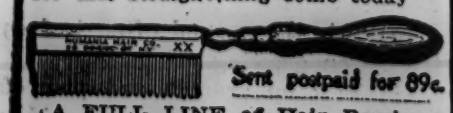

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TWELVE COMMUNITY FAIRS IN MACON COUNTY A GREAT SUCCESS

BY S. L. WOODALL

A series of community fairs have been held in Macon County recently, beginning November 10th. The first fair was held in the New Rising Star community. The men, women and children came out in large numbers with something to exhibit. The men brought well groomed horses, mules, cows, hogs as well as various farm products, such as corn, peas, velvet beans, peanuts, sugar cane, rice, oats, sweet potatoes, syrup, bales of hay, etc.

The womens' work consisted of canned fruits and vegetables, sewing, crocheting, butter, eggs, chickens, turkeys, fresh vegetables, etc. The children had a display of sewing, manual training and other industrial and class room work. The exhibits were neatly arranged. A very helpful program was carried out with races and a number of other field games.

The following week, fairs were held at Solomon Chapel and Clintonville communities respectively. We had a similar display of home, farm and school products at these two places, with the exception of a larger number of people, a greater variety and more exhibits.

Our next two points were Brown Hill and Shiloh communities, where we had two excellent fairs. With the farmers, their wives and children, came numbers of visitors from other communities and some of the white citizens. Two members of the County Board of Education were at Shiloh. One of the white citizens remarked that he didn't know the colored people could have such a creditable community fair. He thought on the whole it was better than the colored county fair. The industrial and literary work of the scholars was worth seeing. The Brown Hill school is a Rosenwald school. The girls of the cooking classes served a wholesome dinner to the distinguished visitors.

From these two points we went to Simmon's Chapel and Bethel Grove communities to make ready for the fairs there. The building and yard were put in order at Simmons, but the rain storm stopped the fair the next day. Many persons were disappointed. The following day the sun came out and the people of Bethel Grove came from all corners of the community and witnessed a fine fair. By this time the fair fever had reached a very high degree and the next fair was pulled off by the people of the Harris Barret community. A display of home, school and farm products was brought out here similar to other places. Then came the Liberty Hill and Notasulga fairs. The people worked with the same zeal. In spite of Liberty Hill being in one of the districts flooded completely out, an exhibition of farm products was made that was surprising.

My next two places were Cowles Station and Sweet Gum. This was our last fair week and we wanted the last as good as the first. This was not the first time that a community fair had been held in Cowles Station community, therefore the work was easier here. The people knew the good of a fair and responded readily. The Sweet Gum fair was held during hard showers of rain, but the place was packed with people. The exhibits were good and many. The live stock exhibition was excellent. One of the most inspiring programs was carried out and all went home benefited. Through these twelve community fairs not less than five thousand persons were reached and helped in a way that nothing else could have done.

During our fair season the men and women were terribly unsettled. Some were leaving this section because they had nothing; others were leaving because their neighbors left. Becoming active in their community fair, they discovered that they had more food stuff right at their door than they knew they had. We tried to carry out a program at each fair with discussions helpful to the farmers that they could help discuss, as well as to have visitors who could give instructive talks to the people. They received instruction from such men as Mr. W. B. Riley, County Superintendent of Education, Dr. Moton, Messrs. E. C. Roberts, C. J. Calloway, T. N. Cowen, C. W. Greene, United States Farm Demonstrator, and others. They were the kinds of fertilizers to use, how to keep ahead of the boll weevil and grow cotton, what to plant during the winter months, etc., that some of them would not have heard at any other place.

Splendid talks and practical suggestions were given the women on economy, thrift, cleanliness, etc., by Mrs. C. J. Calloway and others. Numbers of persons active in their community fair had never attended a county fair; they hadn't thought it worth while. They are inspired by the blue or red ribbon that their community fair gave them to work for a more substantial prize from the county. The inspiration the farmer who failed this year received from his neighbor who "made good," by having him tell in the meeting how he made good and seeing the possibilities, has caused numbers to say, "I thought I'd go away, but I believe I'll try another year."

Each fair was a school of instruction and the course was pursued by men, women, and children alike. Their very expression said, "We value each recitation." Committees of the indifferent patrons as well as the reliable ones were put on one of the working lists and made responsible for some part in the fair. They appreciated this, hence they were brought in touch with the school; all of the fairs were held at the schoolhouse. This man is saying, "Our school" now, instead of "their school." Another year we hope to start our fairs in September and have them in each community, since they seem to awaken greater community pride among my people.

TWO GREAT DAYS AT THE COTTAGE GROVE COOSA COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL

BY ISABELLA H. WHITTAKER

The people of the Cottage Grove community count December 31, 1916, and January 1, 1917, as two great days in the history of the community. The Fifth Sunday of each quarter has for many years been observed as Educational day. All the churches in the community give up their services that day and meet at the school and assist in making the day profitable to all. The Fifth Sunday in December of last year, a very interesting program was rendered. An instructive and helpful Sunday School session was held. The lessons for the last quarter of the year were reviewed by Principal J. A. Welton, after which Rev. J. W. Whittaker, of the Tuskegee Institute spoke briefly upon the lessons. His talk was very inspiring, and he made us all see that Paul's suffering was endured because he was unwilling to deny the truth and thus admit into his heart the evil spirit. The minds of our young people were impressed with the necessity of not allowing people to get into their hearts with evil by retaliating their harsh words and mean deeds. The thought deeply impressed all. A very beautiful church service followed the Sunday school. Rev. Whittaker gave us one of his helpful sermons. This sermon will long be remembered by the people of this community and it will furnish material for thoughts for years to come.

January first was observed as Emancipation Day. People living eighteen miles away came in spite of the fact that the weather was bad. The day was set aside as a corn rally day in an effort to get some money for our industrial work. Every one was asked to make a contribution of corn and the corn will be sold. To this call a most liberal response was made. Individuals gave from one ear to a bushel. Our white friends contributed also. On this occasion the speakers were from our own community. Some of the subjects discussed were: "The Negro as a Brickmason," "The Negro as a Farmer," "The Negro and His White Friend or Neighbor," "The Negro as a Preacher," "The School in the Community." The discussions were practical and helpful. There were addresses also by both Dr. Haynes of Fisk University and Rev. Whittaker. It was in this way that the people of Cottage Grove gathered thought and inspiration to begin the new year.

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EDITORIAL

THE BEAUTY OF DOING THINGS

I have often read this beautiful statement in the Bible, "Be ye doers of the word and not sayers only." This is a sermon in a few words. Simple and to the point and yet how few of our people have learned it! When the minister requests the sleeping brother in church to "wake up" how prone we are to look all about us to find the fellow who is napping! If we would see ourselves as others see us, we would readily conclude that we are the drowsy, sleepy headed fellows to whom he is referring. The above Bible quotation refers to you, Mr. Farmer, as much as to anyone else. You need not offer a thousand excuses nor preach a long-winded sermon. Wake up and do the thing at your very door, and the very atmosphere in which you live will become sweeter, your farm more productive, your bank account larger, your family happier, and life itself will have a deeper meaning.

Raise More Foodstuffs

The whole Southland is today preaching from one text, "Plant more foodstuffs." Many men have been preaching for years from the same text but it remained for a little bug—the boll weevil—to drive this important lesson home. The weevil is not simply a "sayer" but a "doer." Actions are more powerful than words anyway. Any weakling can soon learn to talk, but it takes manhood to satisfy the physical, moral and intellectual demands of the world.

You, Mr. Farmer, are the backbone of the world, because you hold the key to the "smokehouse." If the world goes hungry, all else is a failure, for a hungry man can neither plan, think nor work. You have learned how to grow corn, peas, potatoes, sugar cane and hogs. But remember that knowledge is power only as it is harnessed to the forces of nature and made to do things. The world will never give to the farmer the respect due him until he transforms some of his talking energy into more bread, better livestock, better schools and better churches. The strength in a speech lies in the character back of it. Your home, your hogs, your garden, your cows, your farm, in fact, your entire possessions coupled with your moral standing determine your weight in your community.

What of the Market?

Many farmers stand around and excuse their shiftless habits by saying, "I cant sell these various products after I grow them. Where shall I find a market?" Just here I am reminded of the sinner who wouldn't join the church because he didn't know the exact location of heaven or hell. The minister said to him, "You get ready, you have nothing to do with where these places are. God knows where they are and will find them for you at the proper time. You just bear the proper fruit." The same advice I would give to you, Mr. Farmer. Get ready. No valuable foodstuffs will spoil on your hand. The world must eat and would as soon get its supply from your farm as from any place else. First have the goods, and you'll have no trouble in delivering them. That man who fails to plant certain farm products because he isn't fond of them, or doubts his finding a market, has but little business judgment and will always find himself standing around some merchant's store trying to get somebody to "run" him; and he who believes too strongly in the "running" system will eventually find himself in the mire of poverty and shame, from whence no traveler soon returns.

I heard a certain "Big Farmer"—I mean that kind of farmer that raises 5 bushels of corn to the acre—say once "If everybody raised corn we couldn't get more than 15 or 20 cents a bushel for it." This farmer forgot that he doesn't always have to sell corn in grain. You can sell it in the form of beef, pork, poultry and dairy products.

What Shall I Plant?

I hope that all of you, dear farmers, have answered this question by now. If you haven't, then read the following which is Dr. Duggar's program for the one-horse farmer:

(a) Fall Sown Crops:

Acres—5 in oats.
3 in wheat.
1 in rye.
½ in Dwarf Essex rape.
½ in Bur or other clovers or vetch (fenced).

Total—10 acres.

As much as possible of this grain land is to be used also for a summer crop of either peanuts, soy beans, or cow peas.

(b) Summer Crops for Spring Planting.

Acres—10 (or more) in corn with early speckled velvet beans between.
5 in cotton.
3 in sweet potatoes.
1 in sugar cane or large variety of sorghum.
1 in garden or miscellaneous truck crops.

Total—20 acres.

A Child Race

Have you ever thought of the reason why the black man is often referred to as a child race? The word "child" carries with it the idea of dependence. He spends the most of his time building air castles and play houses. He lives today and forgets tomorrow. His words are larger than his deeds. Now for the very same reason we are often referred to as a "child race," too many of us have been leaning upon the shoulders of the white man for our daily bread. As long as "cap" would give us a little meat and bread, many of us have never felt called upon to look ahead for ourselves. Let us turn over a "new leaf" in 1917. The wholesome advice that we are receiving from time to time through the Tuskegee Institute and the various other extension agencies, will be of little service unless we apply it.

Thousands of dollars are being spent annually to bring to our very doors that information so essential to our prosperity and happiness. Agricultural bulletins and farm fournals are being published daily. To what extent are we using them? The farmer of all men, should be the most independent. Remember that our civilization is measured largely by the standards set by the masses, but each individual constitutes an important factor of the whole; for a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. Every shiftless, lazy, indifferent member of a race helps to fasten firmly the millstone of degradation about its own neck. Let us see to it that in the future through our thrift, our intelligence, our real worth that we shall be known not simply as a member of a "child race," but as a self-respecting, law-abiding Negro — a man.

THE FARMERS' SHORT COURSE BEING HELD AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

Nearly Two Thousand Have Already Enrolled

One of the most far-reaching features of the Tuskegee Institute is the Farmers' Short Course under the immediate direction of Prof. Geo. R. Bridgeforth, Director of Agriculture, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Prof. Bridgeforth is in every sense of the term a "live wire," and the magnetism from his striking personality, is not only seen in the activities of the strong agricultural faculty which he has so wisely selected, but is clearly shown in the achievements of those farmers who have had the privilege of taking this short course. January 3 was the opening day and already fully 2,000 men, women and children have received instruction in dairying, poultry raising, general farming methods and physical culture. The enthusiasm is very high and the enrollment will no doubt surpass that of any previous year, before the end of the session.

Strong addresses have already been delivered by Dr. W. E. Hinds, State Etymologist, Auburn, Alabama; Prof. J. L. Sibley, State Supervisor of Negro Rural Schools of Alabama; Prof. W. B. Riley, County Superintendent of Education; Hon. C. W. Hare, Editor Tuskegee News; Mr. Asa Vaughn; Prof. E. F. Cauthon; Hon. Jas. A. Wade, Commissioner of Agriculture of Alabama; Rev. Curry and Principal R. R. Moton. Each of these addresses dealt with the practical and will have a remarkable effect in helping our people to appreciate the pleasure and profit right about their very doors.

Every student attending seems thoroughly determined to master every phase of the Course, and Director Bridgeforth seems equally anxious to impart that kind of knowledge that will be of immediate service to the farmers, this year.

The following persons of the town of Tuskegee have offered prizes to the persons doing the best industrial work during the Course:

Johnston Brothers Drug Store, one pound box of candy.

C. W. Abercrombie, Dry Goods Store, 1 pair of gloves.

A. J. Wilborn, Grocery Store, 1 buggy whip.

Howard Drug Company, 1 box Country Club face cream.

L. J. Brown, Dry Goods Store, 2 pounds rape seed.

R. M. Boyd, Grocery Store, 1 pair plow lines.

G. B. Edwards, Hardware Store, 1 enamel dish pan and 25 No. 2 cans.

Braswell-Fort-Worrell, Dry Goods Store, 10 yards dress gingham.

Lewis Drug Store, $1.00 assorted garden seed.

AN INTERESTING LETTER

From Superintendent H. R. Williamson of Lowndes County, Alabama, to Professor J. L. Sibley, State Supervisor of Negro Rural Schools of Alabama.

Hayneville, Alabama
Dec., 16, 1916.

Professor J. L. Sibley,
Montgomery, Alabama.

Dear Sir:—

In answer to your request for my opinion of the result of the Homemakers Club work, I desire to emphasize my approval. Not only have these clubs been instrumental in awaking an interest in the canning and preserving of fruits and vegetables in all parts of the county, but have done a great work in stimulating the whole community to an effort on this line.

In many instances cleaner houses and better ventilation, sunning bedding, and cleaner yards, fewer trash piles and better gardens in many homes. Corn Clubs have been organized and pig clubs are numerous. The Jeanes Fund, Industrial teachers and the Homemakers Club are largely responsible for this community awakening and co-operation, which is benefiting, we hope, permanently, each home whose owners have been persuaded to aid in work.

I have become fully convinced that work of this nature, in connection with the industrial feature in the school is what this whole country needs most, touching, as it does, the Head, the Hand, the Heart, and the Health of the whole community and making as it will do and is now doing in many instances, the better and more progressive Negroes co-laborers in this educational work.

I most heartily endorse the article which recently appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, which, after going into details as it told of Industrial work and community co-operation ended thus: "I thought that the polling place and the election was where the soul of America would be found. And soon I made up my mind that America had no soul and that democracy, and liberty, and equality were just words. But here in these social-center activities of the Fairview Schools I have found the soul of American democracy. This will be to America what the Greek Church is to Russia, what the empire is to Germany, what the race is to Japan, what the family is to China, what the old gods are to the Hindu. "We are here building the temple in which America shall house the Ark of her Convenant—the whole people going to school to each other!"

Yours very truly,
H. R. WILLIAMSON,
Supt. of Education.

LETTERS FROM PROMINENT FARMERS

Who will Attend the Conference from Fayette County, Tennessee

Somerville, Tennessee,
Route 5, Box 44.

Dear Mr. Rakestraw,
Conference Agent.

I am writing to say that quite a number of the leading farmers of Fayette County, Tennessee, are planning to attend your annual Tuskegee Negro Conference January 17. Prof. W. P. Ware, Principal of Fayette County Training School, has arranged with the Railroad Company for a special car for the Fayette County delegation.

The leading farmers of West Tennessee are planning to attend your Negro Conference January 17, in grand style; you may look for two or three delegates from my family to attend your conference January 17.

A. D. Shelton.

Wedowee, Randolph County,
Alabama.

Mr. Rakestraw,
Conference Agent.

I am writing to say that we will have a larger delegation of Randolph County to attend the Tuskegee Negro Conference, January 17 and 18, 1917, than ever before.

I have succeeded in securing a special car for the Randolph delegation; it will take fifty-five persons for a full car; I am sure we will get that number—fifty-five.

Quiter a number of our leading white citizens are planning to attend the Negro Conference.

Yours truly,
J. B. McPherson,
United States Demonstration Agent.

AN INTERESTING LETTER

Showing Increased Interest In School Work As A Result of New Rosenwald Schoolhouse

Wedowee, Alabama.

Mr. Rakestraw,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

The training School at Wedowee Alabama under the supervision of Mrs. E. J. McPherson, and Miss L. B. Crawford is a revelation to the people of this section.

We have a very large enrollment and the number is rapidly increasing.

The Thanksgiving exercises were both enjoyable and educative and made a very creditable showing for the work being done there.

We feel grateful to Mr. Washington, Mr. Calloway, and Mr. Scott for the aid they gave us in helping to build our school.

J. B. McPherson,
Local Agent.

SANDY LEVEL ROSENWALD SCHOOL

In District 51, Chambers County, Alabama

By Tutt Gardner
Trustee, Treasurer and Foreman of School Building

Dear Editor:

Please allow me space to write up our new Rosenwald School in District fifty-one, seven miles east of Camphill, Alabama, in the County of Chambers. We have been striving for the erection of this building for more than a year. Now it is completed and is said to be the prettiest and best rural school building in Chambers County.

We want to extend to all who have helped us, both white and colored, the State and Mr. Julius Rosenwald, through the Tuskegee Institute, many thanks. We are also especially grateful to Mr. B. T. Washington, Jr., for leading us along this long and rugged way. He has ever been loyal to us, faithful to his duty, and a very good adviser. He has visited our community several times this year and has instructed us along the line of better schools, homes and farms, and how to secure them. He is a minute man and believes in things being accomplished in the right way. Many a long and tiresome drive has been taken by Mr. Wahington in order to reach this community and deliver the message which he had in store for it. But we feel that he does not dread these drives as he is working like his illustrious father, for the betterment of his race and trying to help the man farthest down. We have a very fine Mothers' Club, consisting of seventeen members. It has been very loyal to the school's treasury. Our school has enrolled for this term seventy-seven students. The children are real proud of their new schoolhouse, and keep it very clean; in fact, the entire community is proud of the building. The colored people of this community raised $300, the State gave $300, and Mr. Rosenwald, through Tuskegee Institute, $300. Of the three hundred raised by the colored people, Mr. Perry Hill, Mrs. Elizabeth Allen and myself gave $10 each. Several of the patrons gave five dollars and less amounts. We have a very excellent teacher, Miss Rosebud Hill, who has been teaching for us two terms. She is a very faithful worker, and the school has improved more since she has been here than it had in its whole history. Miss Hill aided us wonderfully in helping us to raise the required $300. She is loved by both the patrons and children.

The school building has been completed at a cost of $1,200. Now "Uncle Tutt," as everyone calls me, is almost through. I shall not say anything of myself, as an old maxim says, "self praise is half scandalous," but I will say that I have done all in my power for the betterment of my community and people. I shall not stop, but will continue until "Shiloh comes." You will hear from me occasionally through your great paper.

WORMY HOGS ARE NEITHER PROFITABLE NOR HEALTHY

By L. A. Weaver
Missouri College of Agriculture

Hogs become infested with worms by picking up the eggs with the food or in the drinking water. Therefore to lessen the opportunities for the hogs to become infested they should be kept in clean, well-drained lots and should be supplied with fresh, clean drinking water and not allowed to drink from ponds and mud-wallows. Fresh slacked lime sprinkled freely over the lots occasionally will help to destroy the worm eggs.

Hogs badly infested with worms should be given 4 grains calomel, 6 grains santonin—for each 100-pound hog; or two and one-half grains santonin, 1 drachm areca nut, 2 grains calomel, 2 drachms sodium bicarbonate—for each 100-pound shoat. These remedies should be fed in a thin slop. The slop should be made out of ship-stuff or bran.

The hog should be dieted for at least 24 hours, then given the slop containing the proper amount of medicine. Make sure that there is plenty of trough room so all hogs can get to the trough without crowding, so each hog will get his share of the slop. If necessary repeat in ten days or two weeks.

A good remedy used at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station for preventing worms is: 3 pounds glaubers salts, 3 pounds common salt, 4 pounds charcoal, 1 pound sulphur, 3 pounds copperas and 3 pounds sodium bicarbonate. Mix and keep in a self-feeder or trough in a dry place where the hogs can have access to it at all times.

Hogs that are practically free from worms are much hardier than hogs that are badly infested with worms. Being hardier they are more resistant to other diseases common to hogs. So hogs should be kept free from worms if they are to be the most profitable.

NOTICE TO THE AGENTS OF THE MADAM C. J. WALKER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INDIANAPOLIS

Dear Co-Workers:

You are hereby notified that during the month of August, 1917, at a place named later, we shall organize all agents who are regularly qualified and duly registered on the books of the Company, into a national body.

The purpose of this organization is; first, to have a National Body of Workers, with a common intent and purpose; second, to know who the agents of Madam C. J. Walker Mfg. Company are; third, to protect all such agents against misrepresentations and false statements of fakes and imposters, and last, to have this organization, its rules and regulations so strict, and perfect, until it will be utterly impossible for any one to handle our goods, unless such a one is a regular agent of the Company, and is a member of the National Organization.

To encourage and stimulate this spirit of organization, beginning January 1st, 1917, we shall give away five hundred dollars ($500.00) in prizes to the agents selling the largest number of boxes of our goods; to the agent returning the largest number of boxes in good condition; to the agent sending in the largest number of new agents; and to the agent responsible for the largest number of delegates to the National Organization referred to above. These prizes will range from five ($5.00) dollars to one hundred ($100.00) dollars.

To further help and encourage this movement from the date of this notice to the time of the meeting of the National Organization, we shall admit new agents and supply them with outfits, upon the receipt of ten (10.00) dollars, at this office, with the understanding that they will pay the balance on or before the date of the National Organization.

All who wish to compete in this contest, please send in your name and address.

The Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company.

Morehouse College

(Formerly Atlanta Baptist College)

Atlanta, Georgia

College Academy Divinity School

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Graduates given high ranking by greatest Northern universities.

Debating, Y. M. C. A., Athletic, all live features. For information address.

JOHN HOPE, President

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1,000 Agents Good Money Made

I want agents in every city and village to sell THE STAR HAIR GROWER. This is a wonderful preparation. Can be used as a straightener with or without Irons. Sells for 25c. a Box. One 25c. box will prove its value. Any person who will use it will be convinced. No matter what has failed to grow your hair just give THE STAR HAIR GROWER a trial and you will be convinced.

Send 25c for full size box, If you wish to be an agen send $1.00 and I will send you a full supply so that you may begin at once, also agents' terms. Send all money by money order.

The Star Hair Grower Manufacturer
1113 Clark St. Evanston, Ill.

The Negro Agricultural and Technical College

Controlled and maintained by the G vernments of North Carolina, and of the United States. Open all the year round. Twenty-third annual session, fall term begins September 1st, 1916. Courses leading to Bachelor of Science in agriculture and mechanics.

For catalog or other information, address

Jas. B. Dudley, President, *Greensboro, N. C.*

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DROPSY TREATMENT. It gives quick relief. Swelling and short breath soon gone. All distressing symptoms rapidly disappear. Liver and kidneys act better. General improvement is realized. I send by mail a trial treatment absolutely FREE. Try it. Never heard of anything its equal for dropsy. Write to DR. THOMAS E. GREEN, Bank Bldg., Box 7 , Chatsworth Ga.

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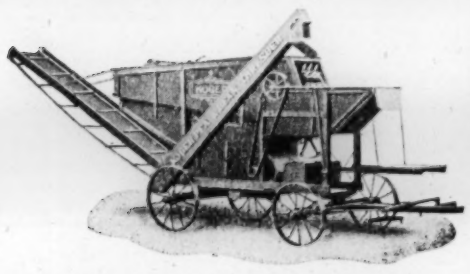

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KOGER PEA and BEAN THRESHER CO., Morristown, Tenn.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

BY REV. G. L. IMES,
Dean Bible Training School, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

JANUARY 21

The First Disciples of The Lord Jesus
John 1:35-51

We have here the record of the first five of the disciples of Jesus. On the surface of it the story is a bare recital of the circumstances under which Jesus began to gather about him the group of men upon whom he labored to impress the meaning and responsibility of his own mission, and who were afterwards to do so much in furthering the Kingdom to which their master himself dedicated his life. But a close inspection reveals the most interesting data concerning the character of the men whom he thus attracted to himself, the nature of the appeal that was made to them and the impression made upon them by the character of the man who thus appealed to them.

On the first two mentioned, Andrew was one, and John the author of the record, by general consent is considered the other. Of Andrew we hear little more, but he has left an impression of sturdy simplicity, and strong faith. John was beloved of his master for his deeply affectionate nature and his sympathetic loyalty to all his plans and purposes. Simon Peter was the third disciple, alert, impetuous, venturesome, ardent, and at the last, steadfast as a rock. Philip was the fourth—quiet, thoughtful, meditative, practical. The fifth was Nathanael—mystic, intuitive, quickest and most responsive of them all.

To John and Andrew, The Baptist presents Jesus as the Lamb of God. John had preached repentance; what more natural than that Jesus should be to him "the Lamb, that taketh away the sins of the world," "slain from the foundation of the world," So Andrew and John followed him to his house, and afterwards to death. In turn Andrew presents Jesus to Peter as the Messiah, the Christ, the hope of Israel. A true Jew, Peter, the patriot clings to him hoping that it should be he who would redeem Israel and restore the Kingdom. He later records his disappointment by returning to his nets. Jesus himself called Philip, as he did also Levi. What he said we know not, but when Philip appeals to Nathanael it is with the words, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets, did write." Evidently Philip knew both the law and the prophets, having a mind full of the truth, a heart looking upward and forward. This is the idea that appeals to Nathanael. On sight Jesus is struck with his honest simplicity of heart. Nathanael is won in turn by Jesus' direct and discerning analysis of himself, and from that flash of intuitive fire his own spirit blazes up in that triumphant confession that antedates even that of Peter, "Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel." First is Nathanael of them all to behold Jesus in the light that afterwards burst upon them all, to see Jesus as ultimately all flesh must see him as "The Son of God".

It was a great day for these men; it was a great day for Jesus. They had found him for whom they had long looked, who called from them the best and highest of which they were capable, who called them to their noblest and complete devotion. Jesus had found hearts eager for his message, waiting for his coming, ready for his service.

JANUARY 28

Reverence of Jesus For His Father's House, John 2:13-22.

This is the story of the cleansing of the temple, as it is called. In connection with this record in John one should read also the account in Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19. Together they give us the full story of this most striking manifestation of the wrath of Jesus against iniquity.

To understand clearly the effect upon Jesus of the scenes which he witnessed on this occasion we must go outside the Bible for information in detail as to what was going on. Ancient and reliable historians tell us that through a period of years there had grown up in connection with the temple service a vast trade in sheep and oxen, rams and doves, such as were prescribed in the law for offerings. With millions of people coming to Jerusalem each year for the passover, it had become a highly lucrative business to provide these things for those who needed them. It was necessary that each beast be slain at the temple; it was accordingly the most convenient thing to have the market as near the temple as possible, and in time it crept within the temple itself. But it did not stop there; not only was there buying and selling as John tells us, but there had grown up a great system of graft, of exorbitant prices, of unjust dealing; the market had become a den of thieves and robbers as the other gospels record. And the high priest we are told, was the leader and chief beneficiary in it all.

This is the situation that aroused the indignation and anger of Jesus: that the greed and avarice of men should subject all the relations of life to the basis of a bargain: that there should always be present the question: What can we get out of it? and that religion itself and the offices of religion should be used to wring profit from those who sought its comfort and aid. The action of Jesus was a protest against greed and corruption that obtruded itself within the precincts of religion itself. And our hearts warm at the thought of his fearlessness and courage. For it was dangerous so to challenge those that sat in high places.

The people themselves were amazed but their amazement gave way to gratitude, the children sang his praises, and the blind and lame were brought to him and were healed. The channels of grace were open once more. The avenues to God were free to all. Of course it made enemies for him, the scribes and chief priests sought to kill him; but they were afraid of the people. And Jesus was unafraid. Any man who thinks of Jesus as weak, as timid, as a molly-coddle has simply not understood him; has probably never understood this story. It will pay all such to read it again. Who follows in his train?

CONFERENCE NOTES

Progressive farmers in Chambers County, Alabama:

Mr. Sam Thomas has raised 12 bales of cotton to two plows, 300 bushels of corn, 900 pounds of meat, 60 bushels of wheat, 100 gallons of syrup, 150 bushels potatoes and 25 bushels peas.

Mr. W. H. H. Reese, 16 bales of cotton to two plows, 400 bushels of

corn, 1,000 pounds meat, 300 gallons syrup, 100 bushels potatoes, 80 bushels oats, 100 bushels peas. Mr. Reese owns 300 acres of land.

Mr. Reese Lancaster owns 217 acres of land. He raised 12 bales of cotton to two plows, 500 bushels corn, 200 gallons syrup, 100 bushels of potatoes, 1000 pounds of meat. His wife canned 300 quarts of fruit and vegetables and has sold $25.00 worth of butter this year.

Mr. Jim Howard, Cotton 21 bales to three plows, 200 bushels corn, 115 bushels potatoes, 25 bushels peas, 100 gallons syrup, and 14 bushels rice.

Mr. Wesley Sherrel, 12 bales of cotton to two plows, 300 bushels corn, 125 gallons syrup, 900 pounds meat, 150 bushels potatoes, and 300 bushels corn.

The following is the report of a farmer who has subscribed for THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER.

Mr. J. D. Flemming, R. F. D. No. 6, Box 69, Collierville, Tennessee:
20 bales cotton.
180 bales lespedeza hay.
70 bales pea hay.
20 bushels peas.
50 gallons molasses.
15 bushels "Nancy Hall" potatoes.
800 pounds meat.
3 head of stock.
8 cows.

His wife raised 200 chickens. I asked Mr. Flemming how much money did his wife make off of her chickens and eggs, milk and butter. He said it was cheaper to use those foods on his table and not eat so much meat and bread, he has better health in his family by changing their diets. I wish many other farmers would think along the same line. He has two boys and one girl going to school at Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee. He believes in educating his children.

Respectfully yours,
N. IOLA WIMBS ELLIS.

ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

BY HON. D. F. HOUSTON
Secretary of Agriculture

"The following activities are being pursued by the Bureau of Animal Industry with reference to tuberculosis:

"Applying the tuberculin test to interstate shipments of cattle at stock yards when destined to States requiring the test. This is done upon request of the owner and without fee; testing cattle for importation and for exportation; testing herds in Maryland and Virginia supplying milk to the District of Columbia, in co-operation with the local health officer; testing all cattle in the District of Columbia with a view of eradicating the disease within the District; testing herds in Virginia in co-operation with the Dairy and Food Commissioner of that State; testing pure-bred herds in various parts of the United States in co-operation with the owners; manufacturing and distributing tuberculin to State authorities for official use.

"In addition to this work, it is believed that the time has arrived when systematic eradication of tuberculosis in selected areas in some of the States should be begun. While this has been suggested from time to time, none of the States has yet indicated a desire to commence the work. This is possibly due to the lack of funds. To make the requisite progress, the necessary authority and a considerable sum of money should be available both to the Federal Government and the States.

"It is not thought that much permanent headway will be made in securing the co-operation of cattle owners unless some reimbursement is made for cattle destroyed. Under the plan followed in the District of Columbia cattle which react are first appraised and then slaughtered. If no lesions of tuberculosis are found, the owner receives the full appraised value. If lesions are found but the carcass is not affected to such an extent as to destroy the value of the meat for food purposes, the owner receives 80 per cent of the appraised value less the salvage. In case the carcass is so badly affected as to require destruction, the owner receives 40 per cent less the salvage. This has been found generally acceptable to the cattle owners. The cattle are appraised at their beef or dairy value.

"Considerable co-operation is received from breeders of pure-bred cattle in eradicating the disease from their herds. So far no compensation has been given for cattle which reacted to the test. Usually these cattle are slaughtered at the owner's expense, but in some instances where the animals are of great value they have been segregated and used for breeding purposes only.

"If co-operation with the States is undertaken, it should be on the half-and-half plan and the work should be confined to certain definite sections, such as one or two counties at a time, with extension to other counties as the work progresses. The magnitude of the task should be fully understood before the work is begun. There are approximately 22 million dairy cattle in the United States. It would be necessary to retest herds at intervals of six months until all disease was eradicated. All new cattle added to tested herds would require testing unless from herds known to be clean."

From the fact that we are becoming a great export nation, and must compete with other countries in the world's markets, as well as freeing ourselves from this disease for the benefit of our own country, we agree with the Secretary of Agriculture that the time has arrived to undertake a systematic eradication of tuberculosis.

This disease has been and is being used as a scare by the oleomargarine interest to boost the sale of their substitute (which is also churned in milk).

In the District of Columbia, through the work of the Department of Agriculture, the disease is less than one per cent. Whether we agree or not in the tuberculin test, all agree that slaughtered animals should be paid. Each State legislature should take up the matter and make the necessary appropriations to start the work, so that by another year the States can meet the National government on a half-and-half basis.

The Agricultural Appropriation Bill of the present Congress, as reported from the Committee, carries $75,000 for the beginning of this work.

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